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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



VOLUME 62

NUMBER 19

FLAX SEED (Page 518)

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

L A T E N E W S

Exports of cotton from Syria during the calendar year 1950, totaled 86,590 bales (500 pounds gross weight) with a value of 64 million Syrian pounds, an average equivalent to 44 U.S. cents a pound. Detailed statistics, available for all except 17,500 bales exported during the first quarter of 1950, show that 20,158 bales were exported to France, 11,721 to the United Kingdom, 9,654 to Italy, and 5,447 to Lebanon (an additional 15,111 bales were shipped to the Lebanon free zone, probably for re-shipment abroad). Domestic prices of ginned cotton rose steadily throughout the year from 28 cents a pound in January 1950 to 39 cents in September, 61 cents in January 1951 and 77 cents a pound in March (based on the free exchange rate used for export transactions). Prices at the end of March were reported to be receding.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to those needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD FLAXSEED PRODUCTION SMALLEST IN RECENT YEARS 1/

World flaxseed production in 1950 is now estimated at 133,520,000 bushels, the smallest outturn since 1947, according to data available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The crop was down from 1949 by 7.2 million bushels but was practically the same as the 1935-39 average. Decreases in the harvests of the United States, Argentina, and India, which together represented almost 60 percent of the 1950 total, accounted for more than the decline in world production from the previous year.

Canada harvested 4,540,000 bushels of flaxseed from 547,000 acres last year. This was almost double the short crop of 1949 but represented only one-fourth of the record high of 1948. Acreage increased considerably under the stimulus of high prices and a strong demand. Production, however, failed to reach expectations because of heavy frost damage in the Prairie Provinces.

The outlook for 1951 flaxseed production in Canada promises a substantial increase in acreage. It is believed generally that at least 1 million acres will be planted to flax in 1951. On the basis of the long-term average yield this would produce a crop of 7.5 million bushels.

Mexico's crop, estimated unofficially at 1,417,000 bushels, was less by some 560,000 bushels than the previous year's output.

Last year's flaxseed production in the United States--39,263,000 bushels--was the lowest since 1946 and 15 million bushels less than the record output of 1948. The crop was harvested from 3,893,000 acres, 21 percent less than in 1949 but well above the prewar average. The United States has replaced Argentina as the leading flaxseed producer since 1947.

The prospective acreage for 1951 flaxseed is estimated at 3,921,000 acres, a decrease of 4 percent from last year's planted area. With yields by states equal to those for the 1945-49 period the prospective acreage would produce a crop of about 36 million bushels.

Smaller crops in many of the European countries, excluding the Soviet Union, reduced the over-all total by an estimated 1.3 million bushels from the comparatively high outturn of 1949. The most significant decreases occurred in Sweden and the United Kingdom. Flaxseed production reportedly increased considerably in the Soviet Union.

Turkey's crop of 1.1 million bushels represented a decrease of one-fifth from 1949 and one-fourth from the record high of 1948. India reported a harvest of 16,520,000 bushels from 3,712,000 acres, or 400,000 bushels less than in the previous year and 1.6 million less than prewar.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available upon request from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

FLAXSEED: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified areas, average 1935-39, annual 1947-50 1/

Continent and country	Harvested acreage					Yield per acre					Production				
	Average : 1935-39	1947	1948	1949	Average : 1950 2/	Average : 1935-39	1947	1948	1949	Average : 1950 2/	Average : 1935-39	1947	1948	1949	1950 2/
	1,000 : acres	1,000 : acres	1,000 : acres	1,000 : acres	1,000 : acres	1,000 : bushels	1,000 : bushels	1,000 : bushels	1,000 : bushels	1,000 : bushels	1,000 : bushels	1,000 : bushels	1,000 : bushels	1,000 : bushels	1,000 : bushels
NORTH AMERICA															
Canada.....	307:	1,574:	1,880:	322:	547:	4.9	7.8	9.4	7.1	8.3	1,508:	12,260:	17,721:	2,284:	4,540
Mexico.....	16:	93:	145:	134:	-	6.9	12.7	13.2	14.8	-	111:	1,173:	1,911:	1,982:	1,417
United States.....	1,451:	4,030:	4,359:	4,924:	3,893:	7.6	10.1	11.2	8.9	10.1	10,591:	40,536:	54,529:	43,946:	39,263
Total.....	1,774:	5,697:	6,884:	5,380:	4,570:	-	-	-	-	-	12,610:	53,969:	74,161:	48,212:	45,220
EUROPE															
Austria 3/.....	5:	6:	8:	6:	-	7.1	5.9	8.7	9.3	-	36:	36:	69:	53:	-
Belgium 3/.....	75:	69:	74:	64:	60:	8.9	6.8	7.9	9.7	8.3	664:	470:	587:	627:	496
Bulgaria.....	8:	-	-	-	-	6.5	6.1	-	-	-	52:	212:	47:	-	-
Czechoslovakia 3/.....	35:6/	50:6/	66:6/	66:	36:	6.9	4.3	5.7	6.4	5/	243:	401:	376:	421:	575
Denmark.....	9:	25:	45:	30:	-	-	17.5	16.5	18.4	15.9	-	-	-	552:	-
Finland 3/.....	92:	81:	78:	93:	99:	5.0	4.3	5.0	5.5	5.6	464:	350:	387:	508:	550
France 3/.....	45:	50:	64:	32:	19:	10.6	9.5	9.6	11.3	11.6 1/2	476:	468:	622:	358:	224
Germany:	23:	75:	80:	-	-	11.5	9.3	9.4	-	-	260:	700:	750:	-	-
Western Germany 3/.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79:	96:	98:	118:	79
Other Germany 2/.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	283:	-	-	-	-
Greece.....	28:	14:	23:6/	41:	-	9.5	-	8.9	3.9	-	-	-	256:	-	-
Hungary 3/.....	16:	45:	48:	51:	50:	12.6	10.0	9.8	8.9	9.0	202:	454:	472:	451:	453
Italy 3/.....	33:	42:	48:	50:	47:	13.0	11.8	12.6	14.4	10.9	546:	386:	606:	696:	509
Netherlands 3/.....	158:	-	-	-	-	10.0	-	-	-	5/	1,578:	-	-	-	-
Poland 2/.....	42:	32:	37:	-	-	6.5	-	-	-	-	275:	-	-	-	-
Romania 3/.....	42:	40:	54:	111:	86:	-	16.4	18.9	18.4	17.8	-	645:	1,012:	2,047:	1,535
Sweden.....	-	2:	38:	58:	38:	-	15.8	16.3	16.6	14.7	-	600:	1,400:	920:	560
United Kingdom.....	33:	-	-	-	-	1.6	-	-	-	-	52:	-	-	-	-
Yugoslavia 3/.....	650:	745:	1,010:	1,100:	1,070:	-	-	-	-	-	5,400:	5,835:	9,635:	10,710:	9,420
Total (excl. U.S.S.R.) 9/.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 3/ 1/2/	6,424:	3,200:	4,400:	-	-	5.1	4.3	4.4	-	5/	32,115:	13,800:	19,290:	-	-

ASIA														
Turkey 3/	48:	72:	183:	167:	123:	7.3:	10.4:	9.8:	8.3:	8.9:	34.9:	748:	1,795:	1,381:
India 6/ 10/	3,885:	3,259:	3,977:	3,761:	3,712:	4.7:	4.0:	4.3:	4.5:	4.5:	18,096:	13,120:	17,240:	16,920:
Pakistan 11/	-	76:	74:	74:	80:	4.2:	6.8:	7.0:	6.5:	6.5:	-	520:	520:	480:
Japan 2/	50:	75:	64:	49:	74:	4.2:	-	3.1:	2.4:	-	211:	-	197:	118:
Total (excl. U.S.S.R. and China) 9/	4,075:	3,730:	4,515:	4,280:	4,220:	-	-	-	-	-	18,925:	15,180:	20,050:	19,280:
SOUTH AMERICA														
Argentina	6,077:	3,311:	2,147:	2,372:	2,045:	9.8:	10.7:	7.9:	11.2:	11.1:	99,571:	35,470:	17,046:	26,613:
Brazil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	709:	887:	900:
Chile 2/	5:	13:	194:	13:	12:	8.2:	13.4:	12.9:	11.7:	14.2:	12/	168:	241:	151:
Uruguay	407:	467:	575.6/	395.6/	296:	9.6:	8.3:	8.0:	7.4:	9.9:	3,894:	3,862:	4,596:	2,538:
Total 9/	6,570:	3,870:	2,830:	2,880:	2,635:	-	-	-	-	-	64,035:	40,210:	22,670:	30,600:
AFRICA														
Algeria	-	-	-	235:	38:	-	-	8.9:	3.2:	6.1:	-	-	394:	749:
Egypt 3/	7:	11:	22:	21:	5:	12.4:	12.9:	14.0:	19.6:	11.8:	87:	136:	312:	409:
French Morocco	51:	72:	146:	319:	99:	7.1:	6.6:	9.9:	7.5:	4.3:	362:	473:	1,443:	2,385:
Tunisia	1:	1:	32:	148:	32:	5.6:	6.0:	6.5:	5.7:	6.4:	4:	6:	209:	329:
Total 9/	65:	150:	365:	890:	380:	-	-	-	-	-	500:	1,030:	3,100:	5,610:
OCEANIA														
Australia	13/	2:	15:	30:	58:	-	5.9:	7.3:	8.2:	-	13/	11:	108:	243:
New Zealand	1:	19:	8:	3:	20:	14.2:	7.5:	-	-	16.0:	17:	140:	-	-
Total 9/	1:	25:	25:	40:	80:	-	-	-	-	-	17:	155:	210:	345:
World total	19,570:	17,420:	20,030:	19,970:	19,060:	-	-	-	-	-	133,500:	130,180:	149,115:	140,760:

1/ Harvests of the Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow; thus the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere. countries in 1950 is combined with the Southern Hemisphere harvest which began late in 1950 and ended early in 1951. Estimates do not include China where annual production probably varies from 1 to 2 million bushels. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Acreage includes area for fiber. 4/ Includes acreage utilized for combined plantings but excludes acreage planted for fiber production only. 5/ Average of less than 5 years. 6/ Flax and hemp. 7/ Flax area. 8/ Yield per acre calculated on the basis of the yield of seed from acreage harvested for seed only. 9/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries. 10/ Officially reported figures plus Indian official estimates for unreported tracts except in the years 1947-50 inclusive, when no estimates for unreported tracts were available. 11/ Prior to 1947 figures for India include Pakistan. 12/ 1935 only. 13/ Less than 500 acres and 500 bushels.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

Argentina's flaxseed production estimate has again been revised downward--to about 22.6 million bushels compared with 26.6 million a year earlier and 59.6 million on the average during the prewar period. Abandonment was unusually heavy and only 2 million acres were harvested against 2.4 million in 1949 and 6.1 million prewar. The 1950 acreage was the smallest harvested in Argentina since that country first became a major flaxseed producer. Losses in 1950 were attributed to last frosts, excessive rains, and hot drying winds during the flowering period.

Production in Brazil increased from 900,000 bushels in 1949 to 1.3 million bushels in 1950. In Uruguay 3.9 million bushels were harvested from 396,000 planted acres. This was an increase of 1 million bushels from 1949, but slightly less than the 1935-39 average output. Chile's crop of 167,000 bushels was only slightly larger than the previous year's but over 4 times the prewar average. The sharply higher prices of flaxseed, linseed oil and flax fiber during the latter half of 1950 encouraged growers to increase their plantings.

Africa's flaxseed production (partially estimated) dropped to 2.4 million bushels last year after reaching a high of 5.6 million in 1949. Egypt's harvest amounted to only 59,000 bushels from 5,000 acres compared with 409,000 bushels from 21,000 acres in 1949. Acreage was curtailed because of heavy stocks of linseed oil. The sharp decrease in the French Colonies resulted primarily from reductions in or removals of price support and from unfavorable weather. In Algeria acreage decreased from 235,000 in 1949 to only 38,000 last year and production from 749,000 bushels to 232,000. In French Morocco plantings dropped from 319,000 to 99,000 acres and production from 2,385,000 bushels to 423,000. Area in Tunisia declined from 148,000 to 32,000 acres and yield from 839,000 to 205,000 bushels.

Ethiopia apparently produced a sizeable quantity of flaxseed in 1950 as the volume available for export in 1951 was reported at 1,300,000 bushels.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports of world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

TOBACCO AND TROPICAL PRODUCTSITALY'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION REVISED UPWARD; STOCKS,
CONSUMPTION, EXPORTS AND IMPORTS INCREASED

Italy's 1950 tobacco production is now placed at 8 percent above an earlier estimate according to L. J. Reda, Agricultural Economic Assistant, American Embassy, Rome. Exports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1950 were 43 percent above 1949. Imports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1950 were 10 percent higher than in the previous year. During 1950 Italy consumed 2 percent more tobacco products than in 1949. Leaf stocks were 13 percent higher on December 31, 1950, than they were on the same 1949 date.

The Italian 1950 leaf production is now placed at 147.3 million pounds compared with an earlier estimate of 136.7 million pounds. Leaf production in 1949 totaled 143.3 million pounds. The 1950 harvest consisted of about 58 percent United States types including Kentucky fire-cured, flue-cured, Burley and Maryland, about 26 percent oriental leaf and 16 percent native leaf.

Unmanufactured tobacco exports totaled 20.9 million pounds in 1950 as compared with 14.7 million pounds in 1949 and 4.1 million pounds in 1948. The Netherlands, the most important export outlet, took 5.1 million pounds; Poland, second most important outlet 4.7 million pounds; Germany, ranking third, 2.8 million, Soviet Russia, fourth, 2.0 million and the United States fifth with 1.7 million pounds. The remaining 4.6 million pounds were taken by numerous other countries including France, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Indochina, Algeria, Egypt, and others. In addition to the unmanufactured tobacco exports, Italy exported 211,640 pounds of cigarettes and 4,400 pounds of snuff and pipe tobacco.

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1950 totaled 9.1 million pounds compared with 8.3 million in 1949. The 1948 imports of unmanufactured tobacco totaled 27.3 million pounds. Greece, the most important source of unmanufactured tobacco, supplied 3.5 million pounds. The United States and Turkey were second and third respectively each with about 2.3 million pounds. Other countries supplying Italy with unmanufactured tobacco during 1950 included Germany, the Netherlands and Indonesia. In addition to unmanufactured tobacco Italy imported 509,260 pounds of cigarettes and 103,600 pounds of other manufactured tobacco.

Italy consumed 83.3 million pounds of tobacco products in 1950 compared with 81.3 million pounds in 1949 and 82.7 million pounds in 1948. Cigarette consumption constituted 64.7 million pounds or 78 percent of the total tobacco consumption in 1950. Snuff and pipe tobacco consumption ranked second with 12.7 million pounds or 15 percent; cigar and cigarillos third with 5.5 million pounds, and other manufactured tobacco fourth with

0.4 million pounds. Cigarette consumption in 1949 totaled 62.8 million pounds, snuff and pipe tobacco 12.6 million pounds, cigars and cigarillos 5.5 million and other manufactured tobacco 0.4 million pounds.

Stocks of leaf as of December 31, 1950 were 244.5 million pounds as compared with 216.4 million pounds on the same 1949 date.

**HONDURAS LEAF PRODUCTION LOWER;
EXPORTS AND IMPORTS HIGHER**

Honduras 1950/51 tobacco production is unofficially estimated about 9 percent below 1949/50 according to Charles P. Torrey, Vice Consul American Consulate, San Pedro Sula. Exports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1950 were 52 percent above 1949. Imports of unmanufactured tobacco during January-November 1950 were 4 percent above the imports during the 1949 calendar year.

The country's 1950/51 leaf crop is unofficially estimated at 10,150,000 pounds from 13,285 acres. This compared with a 1949/50 harvest of 11,120,000 pounds from about 14,000 acres and 12,291,000 pounds from about 14,000 acres in 1948/49. Native dark leaf known as "Copan tobacco" comprised practically the entire 1950/51 leaf production; however, flue-cured leaf is expected to total 150,000 pounds, or an increase of 25 percent, over the 120,000 pounds in 1949/50.

Most of Honduras' leaf production is either consumed domestically or expected to El Salvador. During 1950 a total of 7,015,498 pounds of unmanufactured tobacco were exported compared with 4,630,000 pounds during 1949. In addition to unmanufactured tobacco, Honduras exported 2,446,810 pounds of cigars to El Salvador.

Annual cigar production in Honduras is estimated at about 275,000,000 cigars, the majority of which are produced by hand as a home industry. Cigarettes are manufactured by only one company, which is located in San Pedro Sula. This company purchases all the domestically-produced flue-cured leaf and normally about 10 percent of the native dark leaf "Copan tobacco." However, this year, due to surplus stock acquired from last year's crop, the company is expected to purchase only 600,000 pounds of Copan leaf. The company manufactured 552,027,600 cigarettes during 1950.

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco during the first 11 months (January-November) of 1950 totaled 112,474 pounds compared with 108,000 pounds during the calendar year 1949. In addition to unmanufactured tobacco, Honduras imported 2,380,000 cigarettes from the United States during 1950.

**NIGERIA'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION
AND IMPORTS INCREASED**

Nigeria's 1950 tobacco production is estimated at about 18 percent above 1949. Imports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1950 were 3 percent above 1949.

The country's 1950 leaf crop is estimated at 1,000,000 pounds compared with 850,000 pounds in 1949 and 500,000 pounds in 1948.

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1950 totaled 5,049,742 pounds compared with 4,924,885 pounds in 1949 and 4,774,607 pounds in 1948. The United States, the most important source of unmanufactured tobacco, supplied 3,511,665 pounds or 70 percent of the total in 1950, Southern Rhodesia, the second most important source, supplied 1,360,407 pounds or 27 percent. The remaining imports were supplied in varying quantities by numerous other countries including India, French Camerouns, Nyasaland, Gold Coast and others.

Cigarette production during the first 9 months of 1950 was larger than for the 1949 calendar year. However, the only cigarette manufacturing company has as yet not adequately met the increasing demand for domestically-manufactured cigarettes during the 1950 calendar year.

(Continued on Page 537)

FATS AND OILS

FIJI ISLANDS COPRA PRODUCTION DOWN IN 1950

Production of copra in the Fiji Islands during 1950 is estimated at 28,000 long tons, a decrease of over 4,000 tons from 1949, reports Claude G. Ross, American Consulate, Noumea. Copra production during 1950, even more than in 1949, felt the effects of the hurricane which passed through the eastern section of the Colony in December 1948. About 60 percent of the copra is produced by Fijians working on communally-owned lands, and the remaining 40 percent on large estates employing Fijian or Indian labor, or on small family holdings.

The Colony's 2 oil mills, both at Suva, milled an estimated 18,000 tons of copra in 1950, from which about 11,000 tons of coconut oil and 6,600 tons of coconut meal were produced. Local consumption in soap, margarine, and cooking oils took 1,000 tons of the oil, and about 1,500 tons of coconut meal remained in Fiji for the feeding of livestock.

All of the output of copra and copra products in excess of local requirements is normally exported. During 1949 and 1950 exports were as follows (in long tons):

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Copra	13,932	10,158
Coconut oil	10,291	10,083
Coconut meal	4,933	5,009

Under the terms of a 9-year contract which commenced on January 1, 1949, the Colony's exportable surplus of copra and copra products is taken by the British Ministry of Food. In 1950 copra and coconut oil were

sold direct to the Ministry of Food, but about 3,600 tons of coconut meal were shipped to New Zealand by arrangement with the Ministry.

The export price paid for Fijian copra in 1950 was £48-10 per ton (\$135.80) f.o.b. Fijian ports for "Fair Merchantable Sundried Quality" in bulk. The price of coconut oil was £83 per ton (\$232.40) in bulk and for meal £12-10 per ton (\$35) in bags.

For 1951 the Fiji Department of Agriculture has set as a goal the planting of 15,000 acres of new trees and hopes to encourage the Fijians to make similar plantings each year over the next 10-year period. If hurricanes do not affect the 1951 crop, it is anticipated that it will total possibly 32,000 tons.

Contract prices for Fiji's copra and copra products for 1951 by the Ministry of Food are: copra (F.M.S. quality) £53-15 per ton (\$150.50), coconut oil £88 per ton (\$246.40), and coconut meal £15 per ton (\$42), representing increases of 11, 6 and 20 percent, respectively.

SYRIA'S OILSEED PRODUCTION INCREASES IN 1950

Production of vegetable oilseeds, excluding olives, during 1950 in Syria is estimated at approximately 80,000 short tons, according to J. Forrest Crawford, Agricultural Attache, Beirut. The increase of over 50 percent from last year's production is accounted for by an increase in cottonseed production from 37,500 tons in 1949 to 66,000 in 1950. Flaxseed production of 990 tons (35,400 bushels) was more than double the previous year. Output of peanuts was estimated at 770 tons against 660 in 1949. Other oilseeds produced in 1950 were sesame seed 6,600 tons, castor beans 275, sunflower seed 110, apricot seed 2,750, and hempseed 2,200 tons.

About 5,700 tons of vegetable oils were produced in 1950 of which 4,950 tons consisted of cottonseed oil. Exports were relatively small during the year and the bulk of the oil crushed was consumed locally. An estimated 1,250 tons of vegetable oils were imported for use in soap manufacturing. Oilseed imports amounted to 787 tons of cottonseed, 460 tons of sesame seed, and 2,170 tons of other oilseeds.

The only sizeable stocks in Syria are cottonseed stocks, estimated at 33,000 tons at present. Exports of 14,300 tons of cottonseed have been reported during the first 2 months of 1951 and further large exports are expected during 1951.

The large increase in cotton plantings this year will result in a greatly increased cottonseed production in 1951. The increased acreage devoted to cotton also will bring about smaller plantings of oilseed crops.

NICARAGUAN SESAME SEED PRODUCTION
INCREASES IN 1950-51

Nicaraguan sesame seed production during the 1950-51 crop year is estimated at 6,845 short tons, an increase of 37 percent from the previous year but still far short of the record 16,700-ton harvest of 1948-49, according to J. P. Rourke, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Managua. Between 27,500 and 29,500 acres were planted to sesame in 1950.

Exports of sesame seed fell off sharply from the record levels obtained in 1949. According to official Nicaraguan customs figures, shipments of seed totaled 8,230 tons during 1950 compared with 19,170 tons during the previous year. The United States, Belgium and Palestine were the principal recipients of the 1950 shipments.

According to informed sources, about 5,000 tons of the 1950-51 crop already has been sold. Since domestic consumption rarely exceeds 150 tons a year, remaining stocks of approximately 500 tons will more than meet the requirement.

Prices tended progressively upward during 1950. During the first quarter of the year unhulled seed was shipped at between \$8.00 and \$9.50 per quintal (\$158-\$188 per short ton). Decorticated seed brought from \$13.50 to \$16.00 (\$267-\$317) during the same period. By August and September sales were being made at \$11 to \$12 (\$218-\$238) for unhulled seed and \$17 (\$336) for decorticated. During the first quarter of 1951 prices increased to \$15 per quintal (\$297) for unshelled seed and \$21 per quintal (\$416) for decorticated seed.

Sesame is generally planted by the small farmers in Nicaragua with little capital and with little experience in large-scale mechanized activities. As a result, these farmers are not expected to succumb to the cotton-planting fever that has been sweeping the country. It is unlikely, however, that sesame production during 1951-52 will exceed that of last year.

Production of coconuts during 1950 increased considerably from 1949, mainly due to the rehabilitation of a formerly abandoned plantation. Exports totaled 537,250 nuts during the last 5 months of 1950 and were consigned to the United States.

African oil palm plantings now total some 1,600 acres and production is reaching commercial importance. First shipments of oil are expected some time during 1951.

Exports of flaxseed during 1950 totaled about 930 tons, with Japan taking virtually the entire quantity.

The cultivation of all other oilseeds, including castor beans and peanuts is on such a small scale that data regarding acreage, production and consumption is not available.

ARGENTINE FISH AND WHALE OIL SITUATION IN 1950

Argentine production of whale oil from the 1950-51 season was approximately 7,720 short tons, or about the same as last year, according to Cleveland B. McKnight, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. Inadequate equipment, unfavorable weather, and the loss of one of the Argentina transport vessels, the "Ernesto Tornquist" were contributing factors to the relatively small catch. One transport and 7 killer boats continued to operate from Argentina's South Georgia land stations.

In addition to the whale oil produced, about 2,200 tons of seal oil and 1,100 tons of fish oil are reported to have been taken during each of the last 2 seasons.

It is understood that the entire production of whale and seal oil for the 1950-51 season has been sold to the Netherlands, leaving no stocks on hand. Last year the principal recipients were the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Western Germany.

Exports of sabalo and other fish oils in 1950 totaled 925 tons compared with 535 tons in 1949 and 1,660 in 1948. The chief destinations for the 1950 exports were Germany, Ireland, and England.

The Argentine whaling industry for several years has been planning to expand but has not so far. The new factory ship "Juan Peron," largest in the world, has been launched in England and is expected to be fitted out for operations by next August. However, according to informed sources, the vessel may be leased or sold to non-Argentine interests for operation under another flag. Apparently unfavorable exchange rates and credit terms have discouraged the domestic industry.

Plans are reported under way to increase the production of fish oil during the next season and some plant equipment has already been imported for this purpose.

NIGERIAN MARKETING BOARD INCREASES 1951-52 PEANUT, SESAME PRICES

The Nigerian Groundnut Marketing Board at a recent meeting announced a provisional purchasing price of £33 (\$92) a long ton for peanuts compared with £21-4-0 (\$59) in the 1950-51 season, reports E. D. Crowley, American Consulate General, Lagos. The new price for sesame seed is £32 (\$90) a ton compared with the previous price of £20 (\$56).

The new prices are provisional until September when hard-and-fast prices will be announced. The Board states, however, that the new prices will not be below those announced but the possibility of higher prices is not ruled out.

These new prices compare favorably with present free prices across the border in French Niger. The Board is thus acting to stop the flow of nuts over the border, encourage increased production, and encourage deliveries. In addition it is understood that pressure has been brought to stop the rapid increase of financial reserves of the Board and, if at all possible, reduce them somewhat.

NEW ZEALAND HARVESTS LARGE FLAXSEED CROP

New Zealand's 1950-51 flaxseed production is estimated at 320,000 bushels from 19 to 20 thousand acres, according to M. T. Foster, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Wellington. Favorable growing conditions resulted in a better-than-average yield from an acreage more than double that of the 2 previous years. Of this season's production 280,000 bushels will be expressed for oil and 40,000 retained for seed.

Linseed oil requirements are estimated at about 5,600 tons per year of which about 90 percent is used in the paint industry. The remainder is utilized for miscellaneous purposes including waterproofing, printing ink, and in the building industry.

Imports of flaxseed during 1950 amounted to 34,200 bushels against 87,040 in 1949. The total for both years came from India. Imports are expected to reach 120,000 bushels this year. Only 87 short tons of linseed oil were imported last year compared with 809 the previous year.

During the past year linseed oil has been in short supply due principally to the shipping situation. The Dominion would like to carry as stock a reserve of 1,800 tons. In working toward this end Dominion Industries Limited has established oil depots at Wellington and Auckland. The plant of this firm is located at Dunedin.

Raw linseed oil was selling as of mid-April on the basis of 15s. 2d. per gallon (23 cents per pound) delivered at main ports. Producers of flaxseed received a basic price of £42 per long ton (\$103 per short ton) f.o.r. nearest station. Premiums are paid for quality seed enabling some producers to obtain around £45 (\$111).

The only firm expressing oil in the Dominion would like to expand the area sown to flaxseed to meet domestic requirements. It is estimated that 30,000 acres of flaxseed would supply the need. The paint industry, on the other hand, prefers to have some of the country's requirements imported as oil. A compromised solution may be reached and possibly the area sown to flaxseed will exceed the 20,000 acres planted this year, but not reach the 30,000 acres that would satisfy the Dominion's requirements for oil.

(Continued on Page 541)

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERCOTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS
ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on world markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, U.S. gulf-port average, and taxes incident to exports

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1951	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound	
					Spot quo-	Export and inter- mediate taxes
<u>Alexandria</u>		:Kantar				
Ashmouni, Good	5-3	: 99.05 lbs.	:Tallari	: 119.93	: 69.51	: 11.82
Ashmouni, FGF	"	: "	: "	: 102.18	: 59.22	: 11.82
Karnak, Good	"	: "	: "	: 166.05	: 96.24	: 11.82
Karnak, FGF	"	: "	: "	: 144.55	: 83.78	: 11.82
<u>Bombay</u>		:Candy				
Jarila, Fine	"	: 784 lbs.	:Rupee	:1/ 770.00	: 20.50	: 21.30
Broach Vijay, Fine ..	"	: "	: "	:1/ 840.00	: 22.36	: 21.30
<u>Karachi</u>		:Maund				
4F Punjab, SG, Fine...	5-2	: 82.28 lbs.	: "	: 130.00	: 47.66	: 23.09
289F Sind, SG, Fine...	"	: "	: "	: 135.00	: 49.50	: 23.09
289F Punjab, SG, Fine:	"	: "	: "	: 152.00	: 55.73	: 23.09
<u>Buenos Aires</u>		:Metric ton				
Type B.....	5-3	: 2204.6 lbs.	:Peso	: 2/8800.00	: 79.83	: 7.45
<u>Lima</u>		:Sp. quintal				
Tanguis, Type 3-1/2...	5-1	: 101.4 lbs.	:Sol	: 675.00	: 44.52	: 28.68
Tanguis, Type 5	"	: "	: "	(not quoted)		
Pima, Type 1	"	: "	: "	: 840.00	: 55.41	: 38.44
<u>Recife</u>		:Arroba				
Mata, Type 4		: 33.07 lbs.	:Cruzeiro:			
Sertao, Type 5		: "	: "			
Sertao, Type 4		: "	: "			
<u>Sao Paulo</u>						
Sao Paulo, Type 5 ...	5-2	: "	: "	: 397.00	: 65.32	: 3.0% ad
<u>Torreón</u>		:Sp. quintal				: valorem
Middling, 15/16"		: 101.4 lbs.	:Peso	(not available)		
<u>Houston-Galveston-New</u>						
Orleans av.Mid. 15/16"	5-3	:Pound	:Cent	: XXXXX	: 44.86	: ----

Quotations of foreign markets and taxes reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service post abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Ceiling price.

2/ Nominal.

COTTON CONSUMPTION IN SWEDEN INCREASES

Consumption of cotton in Sweden during the calendar year 1950 totaled 134,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight), 16 percent above the 116,000 bales consumed in 1949, according to George Frostenson, Economic Analyst, American Embassy, Stockholm. No information is available concerning the consumption by months during the year. The consumption capacity of the cotton-spinning mills in Sweden has been estimated at about 177,000 bales annually at 1.5 to 2-shift operation daily. Although the industry operated at 1.5 shifts per day during 1950, capacity was not reached primarily because of a shortage of labor.

Imports of cotton during 1950 declined by about 7 percent or 9,000 bales from the previous calendar year. In 1949 imports were 134,000 bales, decreasing to 125,000 bales in 1950.

This reduction in imports combined with the increase in consumption has caused a decrease in the mill stocks of raw cotton in Sweden from about 70,000 bales on December 31, 1949, to 63,500 bales on the same date in 1950. More than half of these stocks consisted of cotton from Brazil and Mexico, with about 18 percent originating in the United States. It is estimated that mill stocks will continue to decline to around 41,000 bales by the end of the current season on July 31, 1951.

In addition to these mill stocks the Swedish Government has maintained a stock pile of raw cotton since 1939. During 1950, Sweden exported 11,000 bales of raw cotton from the Government stocks, of which 58 percent went to France and 36 percent to Italy. At the end of 1950 the stock pile still contained about 23,000 bales of cotton or about 2 months' supply for the local mills at the present level of consumption. Indications are that the Government intends to increase its stock holdings although no such increase has been reported up to the present.

(Continued on page 539)

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

HOG NUMBERS DECLINE IN DENMARK

Danish hog numbers, according to the March 3, 1951 census, declined 75,000 head or 2 percent when compared with the December 30, 1950 census. Bred sows were reduced from 234,000 head to 229,000 head. The number of suckling pigs declined 94,000 head, but young pigs and slaughter hogs showed a moderate increase.

It is noteworthy that the number of bred sows changed very little since the previous census. The large number of bred sows recorded in the

fall of 1950 created some anxiety that the total hog population would become too large in proportion to the available feed. The reduction by the December 1950 census and the subsequent unchanged number of bred sows in the March 1951 census is therefore a reasonable adjustment made early enough to avoid a later drastic reduction at a financial loss.

DENMARK: Hog numbers (entire country, including towns)
on March 3, 1951, with comparison

Date	Sows		Suck- ling pigs	Pigs and slaughter hogs	Total <u>1/</u>
	Bred	Total			
	head	head	head	head	head
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
December 30, 1949	205	344	844	1,920	3,120
February 12, 1950	197	330	759	2,016	3,117
March 25, 1950	236	353	688	2,161	3,214
November 4, 1950	268	414	854	2,345	3,627
December 30, 1950	234	389	906	2,309	3,616
March 3, 1951	229	366	812	2,350	3,541

1/ Includes boars.

Compiled from official sources.

The producer's price of hogs as fixed by the cooperative slaughter houses remained 4.12 kroner per kilo (27.1 U.S. cents per pound 1/) slaughter weight. The slaughter weight limit remained unchanged (60 to 72 kilos or 132 to 159 pounds) and the penalties for overweight and underweight were also unchanged. The price of hogs at the end of March last year was 3.90 kroner per kilo (25.6 cents per pound) slaughtered weight (weight limit 60 to 75 kilos or 132 to 165 pounds). Feedgrain prices have continued to rise during the January through March period of 1951. Increases of about 8 percent for wheat, 13 percent for rye, 9 percent for barley and 11 percent for oats were reported.

**SOUTH AFRICAN WOOL
EXPORTS TO U.S. UP**

Declared wool exports to the United States in March 1951 from the Union of South Africa amounted to 4.9 million pounds, actual weight, compared with 0.6 million pounds in March 1950, and approximately 6 million pounds in the preceding month this year. Shipments to the United States for the season July-through-February amounted to approximately 31 million pounds compared with about 22 million pounds for the corresponding period in the previous season.

1/ Converted at rate of 1 kroner = 14.49 U.S. cents.

**AUSTRALIAN WOOL RECEIPTS
AND DISPOSALS**

Receipt of wool into store in Australia from July 1950 through March 1951 aggregated over 3.2 million bales, about 10 thousand bales more than the same period last season. However, receipts of new season clip at 3.1 million bales were 85 thousand bales above that in the previous season.

Disposal at auctions accounted for 2.7 million bales this year compared with 2.9 million bales last year, while only 17 thousand bales have been shipped abroad for sale compared with 33 thousand in the same period last year.

About 465 thousand bales remained in store at the end of March 1951 compared with about 249 thousand bales at the same time last year. Wool not yet received in store is estimated at about 422 thousand bales, making a total available for sale in Australia as of April 1 of 887 thousand bales.

**BEEF PRICES INCREASE
ON THE PARIS MARKET**

Weekly wholesale prices in francs per kilo of first grade beef, basis carcass weights, at the LaVillette market in Paris averaged 223 (28.9 U.S. cents per pound ^{1/}) in March 1951, reached 244 (31.6 cents per pound) on April 2, were 242 (31.3 cents per pound) on April 9 and rose to 270 (35.0 cents per pound) on April 16. The April 16 price of 270 francs represents a 30 percent increase over the 207 (26.8 cents per pound) average for April 1950, and 210 (27.2 cents per pound) average for December 1950. Beef prices were relatively steady from April through December 1950, ranging from 199 to 214 francs per kilo (25.8 to 27.7 cents per pound).

Trade sources attribute the increase, in part, to poor pasture development this spring, and to the fear of inflation causing the retention of stock. Other important factors encouraging price increases are exports of live cattle plus recent wage increases which are now beginning to affect the domestic meat market. There also has been a tendency for beef prices to catch up with the level of other meats.

**BELGIAN LIVESTOCK
CENSUS**

Cattle numbers in Belgium continued to increase as reflected by the January 1, 1951 agricultural census, but hog, sheep and horse numbers declined. The cattle population is placed at 2,020,000 head, a

^{1/} Converted at the rate of 1 franc to .2856 U.S. cents.

6 percent gain when compared with the previous year. Numbers are now 17 percent above the 1936-40 prewar average. Hog numbers are also well above prewar while dairy cattle, sheep, horses and goats are reported below.

BELGIUM: Livestock numbers on January 1, 1951,
with comparison

Classification	Average 1936-40	1949	1950	Preliminary 1951
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Cattle- total	1,724	1,760	1,902	2,020
Milk cows only...	956	870	901	932
Hogs.....	1,005	1,000	1,361	1,234
Sheep.....	1/ 187	113	121	116
Goats.....	I/ 158	54	52	55
Horses.....	254	265	257	247

1/ Year 1930.

Compiled from official sources.

AUSTRALIAN SHIPMENTS OF WOOL

Exports of wool from Australia for the current season, July 1, 1950, through February 1951, totaled 607 million pounds, actual weight, with a value of \$701 million, compared with shipments for the period in the previous season of 715 million pounds with a value of \$356 million.

The United Kingdom with receipts of 194 million pounds was by far the most important destination with France, the United States, Belgium, Italy, Japan and Germany next in importance in the order named. Exports to all countries named above were down considerably from last year with the exception of Italy.

FRENCH MOROCCAN DAIRY SITUATION

Since local dairy production does not nearly approach local needs, the French Zone of Morocco depends almost entirely upon imports for its supply of butter and cheese and also imports considerable condensed and powdered milk. Imports of milk and butter now come principally from the Netherlands under the Franco-Netherlands bilateral trade agreements, while imports of cheese are largely split between France and the Netherlands.

Under the current agreements, the French Zone of Morocco is to be allotted, for the first half of 1951, a quota of 1,800 metric tons (1 metric ton equals 2,204.6 pounds) of canned condensed milk, 60 tons of powdered milk, 750 tons of butter, and 500 tons of cheese. This half-year quota is compared with imports for 1949 and 1950 in the accompanying table.

FRENCH ZONE MOROCCO: Dairy imports for 1949-1950
and quota for first half of 1951

	1949	1950	1951 1/
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
Milk:			
Condensed.....	3,000	4,000	1,800
Powdered.....	2/	2/	60
Butter.....	700	1,400	750
Cheese.....	1,500	2,500	500

1/ Quota for first half of year.

2/ Powdered milk included in figures for condensed milk.

It appears unlikely that imports of United States dairy products into Morocco can be increased substantially from their 1950 value of about \$82,000. Under present conditions, with the dollar shortage and exchange restrictions, United States dairy products are largely unable to compete in the market.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

ESTIMATED 1951 BRAZIL
NUT HARVEST LOWER

The 1951 preliminary forecast of the Brazil nut harvest in Brazil is revised downward to 28,600 short tons, unshelled basis, compared with 23,200 tons in 1950 and 35,400 in 1949. The forecast exceeds the 10-year (1940-49) average of 22,000 tons by 30 percent and the 5-year (1945-49) average of 23,800 tons by 20 percent.

The preliminary forecast by districts is as follows: Belem, 15,950 short tons; Itacoatiara, 500 tons; Manaus, 12,100 tons and

BRAZIL NUTS: Estimated commercial production in
Brazil, 1951 with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Unshelled basis

Year	Bolivia	Brazil	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Averages:			
1940-49	1,300	22,000	23,300
1945-49	100	23,800	23,900
Annual:			
1945.....	100	6,800	6,900
1946.....	100	27,500	27,600
1947.....	100	30,400	30,500
1948.....	100	18,900	19,000
1949.....	200	35,200	35,400
1950 1/ 2/.....	200	23,200	23,400
1951 2/.....	200	1/ 28,600	1/ 28,800

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

UNITED STATES: Imports of Brazil nuts
(Crop year, September-August)

Year	Average		Annual			
	1940/41- 1949/51	1945/46- 1949/50	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51 1/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
			SHELLED			
Brazil.....	3,253	3,761	2,925	2,990	4,198	1,473
Other.....	57	7	2/	10	2	12
Total...	3,310	3,768	2,925	3,000	4,200	1,485
			UNSHELLED			
Brazil.....	8,176	11,061	14,336	12,462	10,877	649
Other.....	5	0	0	0	0	14
Total...	8,176	11,061	14,336	12,462	10,877	663

1/ 3 months, September through February. 2/ Less than one-half ton.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Parintins 50 tons. The present forecasts for Belém and Parintins are only slightly higher than those of 1950 while those for Itacoatiara and Manaus are considerably higher. The lack of water in the tributary rivers and creeks has prevented the normal flow of nuts from interior points. It is reported that in some areas the trees had very light sets this year. It is also reported that streams are filling up and the nuts are beginning to arrive in normal quantities. It is difficult to estimate the quantities remaining in the interior. It could well be that a larger quantity than has been thought possible still will arrive at export centers.

The exportation of new-crop nuts from January 1, 1951 to March 31, 1951, according to Trade sources totaled 3,751 short tons of unshelled and 405 tons of shelled. The export movement of unshelled nuts to Europe started 2 months earlier than in 1950. It is reported that from the beginning of the harvest in December 1950 to the end of March 1951, a total of 7,288 short tons unshelled were brought from the interior to export centers, of which 3,923 tons were received in Belém; 3,088 tons in Manaus and Itacoatiara 277 tons. According to available information practically no nuts were received in Parintins during this period.

Exports during the first quarter of 1951 were about as follows: 3,751 short tons, unshelled, to the United Kingdom; 232 short tons, shelled, to the United States; 139 tons, shelled, to the United Kingdom and 34 tons of shelled to all other countries. The shelled nuts exported were partially from the 1950 harvest. In addition to the above exports, it is understood British buyers have arranged to ship 4,235 short tons, unshelled, and 61 tons of shelled during April and May. This would bring the total British purchases to date up to 7,986 short tons, unshelled, and 200 tons of shelled.

West German buyers are said to have purchased 550 short tons of unshelled and are interested in another lot of the same size. United States buyers, who at the start of the season showed considerable interest, held off buying because of the price. It is now reported that early in April United States importers purchased 275 short tons of unshelled in Belém for shipment in late April. Exporters in Brazil state this was the first lot of unshelled sold to United States buyers this season. Prices are reported to have been 19 to 21 cents per pound, f.o.b. Brazil compared with 17 to 20 cents earlier in the season and were reported too high to attract United States importers. Brazilian exporters are expecting a good volume of United States business for the remainder of the season.--By Walter R. Schreiber, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service Reports.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS**U. K.'S WHEAT
ACREAGE REDUCED**

Unfavorable weather conditions in the United Kingdom have held up preparation of land for spring grain seeding, according to recent reports. With usual spring operations seriously retarded, the wheat acreage is expected to fall somewhat short of the 1951 goal of 2.55 million acres. The unsatisfactory spring conditions followed a fall-planting season characterized as only fair. The resulting shortfall in winter wheat acreage might have been made up by larger spring seeding if conditions had permitted.

As of mid-April, however, the weather continued generally cold, and prolonged rainfall had caused floods in some important districts. Low-lying lands were especially waterlogged following abnormal rainfall and heavy storms, and only on lighter soils could any spring cultivation be accomplished. At latest report it appeared probable that spring-sown, as well as winter wheat acreage would be reduced.

Winter wheat acreage in England and Wales, where almost all the winter grain is produced, was estimated at 1.5 million acres up to December 1. This is 18 percent less than seedlings to that date of 1949. The decline was caused by excessive moisture, which held up work in many fields, and by cold weather setting in relatively early, thus stopping fall seeding in many districts. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, March 12, 1951). The condition of early-sown fall wheat was generally satisfactory, but late-sown grain was patchy, at latest report.

Prices to be paid for grain of the 1951 crop were announced after the Annual Farm Price Review. Producers are guaranteed 28 1/3 shillings per hundredweight (\$2.13 per bushel at the current rate of exchange) as an annual average, for wheat, only slightly larger than in 1950.

TOBACCO AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS
(Continued from Page 524)**BRAZIL'S 1951-52 COFFEE
PRODUCTION HIGHER**

Coffee available for movement to ports from Brazil's 1951-52 crop (to be harvested from May to September 1951 and marketed from July 1951 to June 1952) now is forecast by a reliable unofficial source in Brazil at about 17.8 million bags.

About 1.0 million bags of this amount are expected to be consumed in port cities or shipped to other points in Brazil for domestic consumption, leaving about 16.8 million bags for export to foreign markets.

This compares with revised exportable production estimates of 15.0 million bags from the 1950-51 crop, 15.0 million from the 1949-50 crop, 15.7 million from the 1948-49 crop, and an annual average prewar (1935-36 to 1939-40) exportable production of 21.7 million bags.

The accompanying table shows comparative statistics of Brazilian coffee production available for movement to ports. These figures should not be confused with estimates of exportable production, since they include varying amounts of coffee consumed in port cities or shipped to other points in Brazil for domestic consumption.

BRAZIL: Coffee production available for movement to ports 1/

State	Average				
	1935-36			1950-51	Forecast
	to	1948-49	1949-50 <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u> <u>3/</u>	1951-52 <u>3/</u>
	1939-40				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>
Sao Paulo	15,037	11,207	7,244	7,900	8,500
Minas Gerais	3,879	2,413	3,214	2,650	3,100
Parana	791	1,885	2,309	3,700	3,000
Espirito Santo	1,632	1,032	2,551	1,300	2,400
Rio de Janeiro	837	142	587	165	400
Goiatz	51	158	28	45	170
Others	412	148	224	220	200
Total	22,639	16,985	16,157	15,980	17,770

1/ Bags of 132.3 pounds each. Marketing year beginning July 1.

2/ Marketing year began June 1.

3/ Preliminary. From a reliable unofficial source.

Brazilian National Coffee Department and an unofficial source.

There was adequate rainfall throughout central Brazil during February and March. It is reported that some parts of Sao Paulo and Northern Parana received excessive rain which caused small quantities of nearly mature cherries to drop from the trees. Very heavy rains which resulted in serious floods occurred in the southern part of the Zona da Mata of Minas Gerais at the end of March. However, this is a relatively unimportant coffee-producing zone.

The total supply of coffee available for export from Brazil during the period from April 1 to June 30, 1951, is calculated at roughly 4.4 million bags not including normal port working stocks of 3.0 million bags.

With exports running somewhat above the level of last year, it is unlikely that the carry-over on July 1, 1951 will exceed 4.0 million bags, as compared with a carry-over of about 5.7 million bags on July 1, 1950.

The message of President Vargas to the Brazilian Congress on March 15 contained a significant statement on coffee policy. The message stated:

(1) The rejuvenation of old plantations and the formation of new plantations will be stimulated by the new Government; (2) the opening of new producing areas will be controlled to avoid waste, better adapt the worker to the land and guarantee forest reserves; (3) the defense of the price and the regulation of the commerce of coffee will be maintained on a permanent basis; (4) understandings will be sought with the other principal producing countries with a view to stabilizing the present position of coffee in the international market; (5) the financial resources of the old control organizations will be used to rejuvenate the coffee economy, for financing improvement of old plantations, new plantings, and commercializing the product; and (6) the official organizations for research, development, and control of economic activities connected with coffee will be reconstituted.

On March 16, 1951, the Minister of Finance issued a list of measures which Brazil was taking in support of coffee. He said the Government intended:

(1) To limit entries of coffee into ports in such a way as to avoid increasing the liberated stocks without direct relation to the real necessities of exportation; (2) to refuse to register declarations of sales abroad at prices which do not correspond to the real value of the coffee; (3) to increase by \$10.30 per bag the present bases for loans on coffee by the Bank of Brazil; and (4) to take other measures that might become necessary in order to assure remunerative conditions of work for coffee producers and the exchange availabilities needed by Brazil. The new coffee loan rate amounts to \$53.00 a bag for Santos fours, \$58.30 a bag for extra quality coffee, and \$47.70 a bag for lower quality coffee.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

(Continued from Page 530)

COTTON PRODUCTION IN SYRIA INCREASING RAPIDLY

Recent estimates have placed the 1950-51 production of cotton in Syria at about 140,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight), slightly less than double the 1949-50 crop of 80,000 bales. Around 95 percent of the current production consists of American Upland type cotton of the Lone Star and Lockett varieties, averaging 1-1/8 inches in staple length,

which is used in the local mills and exported. The remaining 5 percent of the crop consists of short staple native or "beladi" cotton of the type that has been grown in the country for many years, used largely within the country for mattress-making and furniture upholstery. Cotton growers report that around 30 percent of the crop is not irrigated, mostly in the Aleppo and Latakia areas.

Preliminary forecasts indicate that production in 1951-52 is expected to exceed 300,000 bales, with some estimates exceeding 350,000 bales. In any event, production is expected to be more than double the 1950-51 crop. Syrian farmers have shown great interest in cotton during the current sowing season, perhaps due to the large profits reported to have been made by cotton growers with the crop just harvested. The demand for imported cottonseed which far exceeds the supply, may force some growers to use their own seed from the preceding crop. A large number of water pumps have been installed along the rivers to irrigate new cotton land. For the first time, cotton planting machinery has been imported. While some new land is being planted to cotton, in other areas cotton cultivation is being increased at the expense of other crops. A portion of the area being planted to cotton is usually planted to food crops which are vitally needed on the domestic market.

There are several factors that may limit the production of cotton in 1951-52. Lack of sufficient snow during the past winter may reduce the available supply of water for irrigation. Rainfall, which has been below normal thus far, must increase in the late spring in order to insure favorable yields. It is also possible that shortages of labor and animals for plowing may limit the acreage actually planted to cotton this season to a smaller area than originally planned. In addition, the strong demand for labor and machinery has caused the cost of these items to increase, which, in turn, will result in a higher total cost of production over the preceding crop. Continued high prices for raw cotton will be necessary throughout the coming season in order to make cotton profitable to the farmer.

With the increase in importance of cotton to the economy of the country, the Syrian Government has shown more interest in developing cotton production than ever before. Three cotton experts from the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture have been brought to Syria for a year to help the Government organize a cotton department in the Ministry of Agriculture, to develop and supervise cotton experiment stations throughout the country and to develop controls over the Syrian ginning industry and cotton export trade.

No accurate data are available on domestic cotton consumption in Syria. There are about 42,500 cotton spindles in Syria. While some of the spindles are antiquated, the 12,500 new spindles being installed in Aleppo at present should serve as replacements, preventing any serious decline in consumption if adequate supplies of raw cotton are available. It is reported that 5,000 of the total 12,000 rayon spindles have been spinning cotton in 1950. On the other hand, some of the cotton spinning mills have been idle since the latter months of 1950 when cotton prices rose rapidly.

Mill owners claimed that it was unprofitable to purchase further stocks of raw cotton at the prevailing high prices in order to continue operations.--By John E. Manger, Based in part on a report by J. Forrest Crawford, Agricultural Attache, American Legation, Damascus.

FATS AND OILS
(Continued from Page 527)

**ECUADOR'S VEGETABLE OIL
PRODUCTION INCREASES IN 1950**

Ecuador's production of vegetable oils in 1950 is estimated at 3,600 short tons as compared with 3,040 tons in 1949, according to A. H. Lester, American Consulate General, Guayaquil. Palm oil production of 1,795 tons made up almost half of the total output for the year. Other principal vegetable oils produced in 1950 were: cottonseed oil 795 tons, barbasos nut oil 315, castor oil 280, peanut oil 225 and coconut oil 110.

Production of vegetable shortening by the 2 Ecuadoran producers is estimated at 680 tons, a drop from the 950 tons produced in 1949. Imports of hog lard in 1950 were probably responsible for this decrease. It is reported that the Direccion de Subsistencias at Quito has been authorized by Circular No. 104 of April 3, 1951, to import an additional 100,000 pounds.

The chief oilseed export in 1950 was 4,600 tons of castor beans, almost double the 2,500 tons shipped in 1949. Rumors late in 1950 that export licenses might become available for a number of other oilseeds did not materialize. No oils were exported.

Imports of oils, fats and waxes and their products were 2,560 tons, little changed from 2,400 tons in 1949.

Prices of castor beans were up sharply by the end of the year as a result of higher prices paid in the United States, and continued to rise in 1951. As of April 1, 1951, castor bean prices had reached 105 sucres per quintal (\$137 per short ton). Prices of other oils and oilseeds indicated firm domestic demand, as export of most of them was not permitted.

Stocks of oilseeds were reported at about 3,200 tons as of December 31, 1950, and offered some backlog for oil production in 1951. Early season prospects indicate that drought in Manabi might decrease the crop of raw material available.